

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7912

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO UR

SUBJ: TITO BREZHNEV MEETING IN KIEV: YUGOSLAV VIEW

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED AT HIS REQUEST NOVEMBER 27 ON ACTING
ASSITANT FEDERAL SECRETARY MIROSLAV KREACIC TO BE BRIEFED ON
TITO-BREZHNEV MEETING. KREACIC SAID KIEV MEETING FOCUSED ON
BOTH BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

2. BILATERAL. KREACIC SAID YUGOSLAVS ENCOURAGED TO NOTE SOVIETS
NOW SEEM TO HAVE CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF NONALIGNMENT AND BETTER
APPRECIATION OF NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AS INSTRUMENT FOR AIDING
SETTLEMENT OF WORLD PROBLEMS. NO SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED
TO EXCLUSION FROM COMMUNIQUE OF REFERENCE TO 1955 BELGRADE DE-
CLARATION AND SUBSEQUENT SUCH STATEMENTS RE SOVIET ATTITUDE
TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA. BREZHNEV HAD MENTIONED THESE STATEMENTS IN
EARLIER SPEECH AND YUGOSLAVS SAW NO NEED TO REPEAT REFERENCES IN
COMMUNIQUE. DREACIC SAID YUGOSLAVS GENERALLY REASSURED BY CON-
TINUED SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO "ACCEPT YUGOSLAVS FOR WHAT THEY ARE"

3. INTERNATIONAL. PRINCIPAL FOCUS WAS ON MIDDLE EAST, WITH
DISCUSSION TOUCHING ALSO ON DETENT AND ON-GOING EUROPEAN SECURITY
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AND FORCE LEVEL TALKS. ON MIDDLE EAST, YUGOSLAVS WERE IMPRESSED

WITH SOVIET READINESS TO INSIST ON COMPLIANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, BUT CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION SOVIETS WOULD NOT SETTLE FOR "PEACE AT ANY PRICE" IN MIDDLE EAST. WHILE KREACIC SHIED AWAY FROM INTERPRETING THIS AS WILLINGNESS TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO SECURE COMPLIANCE WITH UN DIRECTIVES, HIS REMARKS INDICATE THIS WAS MESSAGE SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO GET ACROSS.

4. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED DIPLOMATIC CORPS SPECULATION THAT PURPOSE OF OCTOBER 9 AND 24 CALLS ON TITO BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR STEPANOV HAD BEEN RESPECTIVELY TO REQUEST OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR SOVIET AIRLIFT, AND TO ALERT TITO TO POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR RIGHTS OF OVERFLIGHT FOR TROOP-CARRYING AIRCRAFT. KREACIC RESPONDED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT SPECULATION CONCERNING PURPOSE OF SECOND CALL WAS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED: THERE WAS NO MENTION BY STEPANOV OF POSSIBLE TROOP MOVEMENTS. RE FIRST CALL, KREACIC REFERRED TO OFFICIAL FOREIGN SECRETARIAT STATEMENT, I.E., THAT OVERFLIGHTS APPROVED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A REQUEST FROM ARAB FRIENDS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, KREACIC SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KIEV MEETING AND RECENT QADHAFI VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA--LATTER WAS EXCLUSIVELY A FUNCTION OF YUGOSLAV-LIBYAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT. KREACIC IS IN A POSITION TO BE INFORMED ON THE KIEV MEETING HE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING AND FRANK IN DEALINGS WITH EMBASSY OVER A LONG PERIOD, AND WE WOULD ASSIGN A HIGH CREDIBILITY RATING TO HIS DESCRIPTION OF KIEV MEETING.
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